

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. The Examiner rejected the claims as follows. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 24-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by “Visualizing Crowds at a Web Site” (Minar). Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Minar in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,353 B1 (Hazelhurst). Claims 7-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Minar in view of “WebQuery: Searching and Visualizing the Web through Connectivity” (Nortel).

Regarding the rejection of independent Claims 1 and 25-27, the Examiner states that Minar teaches each and every element of the claims. Minar discloses a visualization of crowds of people visiting a web site wherein the visitors are drawn as icons on a map of the web site. Moreover, Minar discloses each document icon represents a collection of logically related pages and that all of the authors pages can be grouped as /people/nelson and all of the Software Agents group’s pages are under /groups/agents and that for the visualization, ***a single icon represents all pages in one group*** (Crowd Visualization and Site Map). In other words, all pages in a group are represented by ***a single icon***. Furthermore, although Minar discloses “an icons color can represent the kind of group it is, (research group page, personal page, project page, etc.),” the pages within these groups cannot be distinguished from other pages with the same group as the pages are all represented by a single icon. Therefore, a visitor to the site as taught by Minar cannot differentiate pages within the same page group, as all pages in a page group are represented by a single icon. Minar further teaches if a person has been to the site before and is

fetching another page in the same page group, then the icon is jittered a bit around the page to convey activity. In contrast, Claim 1, as amended, recites “generating a graphical representation of said at least one instance of said mapping data structure, said graphical representation depicting the two or more categories and the subcategories such that the subcategories are graphically depicted within a corresponding category of the two or more categories,” which is neither taught nor suggested by Minar. These elements are more clearly illustrated with reference to FIGs. 3A-3D of the present application, and more particularly to FIG. 3D, wherein the categories are illustrated as pie segments (see 1-4) and the ordered levels of specificity (i.e. the subcategories) are shown as rings within the categories. Thus, the multiple subcategories of ordered levels of levels of specificity within each category are illustrated within the corresponding category. These features are neither taught nor suggested by Minar. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Additionally, Claims 25-27 have been amended. Claim 25, as amended, includes the recitation “displaying the subcategories and the grouping of subcategories by level of specificity in a geometric pattern such that the subcategories are graphically depicted within a corresponding category of the two or more categories;” Claim 26, as amended, includes the recitation “displaying the subcategories and the grouping of subcategories by level of specificity in a geometric pattern such that the subcategories are graphically depicted within a corresponding category of the two or more categories;” and Claim 27, as amended, includes the recitation “means for displaying the subcategories and the grouping of subcategories by level of specificity in a geometric pattern such that the subcategories are graphically depicted within a corresponding

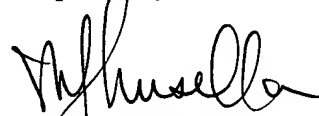
category of the two or more categories;" which are neither taught nor suggested by Minar.

Accordingly, for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) of Claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) of Claims 25-27 be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 1 and 25-27 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-24, it is submitted that they are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies on independent Claim 1. Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the application, namely Claims 1-27, are believed to be in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Musella", is written over the printed name.

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